



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: December 2, 2005

Release Number: 05-74

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Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

SBA Announces Passing of Acting National Ombudsman Peter Sorum

WASHINGTON – Peter Sorum, acting National Ombudsman at the U.S. Small Business Administration since February, has passed away. He was 58.

“I am saddened to announce the passing of one of our leaders at the SBA, our acting National Ombudsman, Peter Sorum,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. “Peter passed away in his sleep on the day after Thanksgiving. While in the office of the Ombudsman, Peter dedicated himself to making sure small businesses had a voice in Washington, D.C., and I am grateful for his service to this administration and the American people. Please join me in keeping Peter and his family in our thoughts and prayers.”

Sorum, a native of Winona, Minn., was a small businessman who founded Maple Eagle International, a software and telecommunications firm. He also published *The Word*, the Marine Corps Reserve Officers’ magazine (1985-87), and *Japan Now* (1992-94).

Sorum had a long and distinguished career in public service. He was appointed by the Bush Administration to the SBA in 2001 to the post of deputy director of Intergovernmental Affairs, to work with state and local officials. In August 2002, he moved to the Office of the National Ombudsman as senior adviser, where he served as trade association coordinator, regulatory fairness board coordinator and federal agency liaison.

Sorum served as acting National Ombudsman at the SBA from September 2003 through January 2004, from March through October in 2004, and again from February 2005 until his passing. As acting National Ombudsman, his mission was to help small business owners, small government entities, and non-profit organizations that have experienced excessive or unfair federal regulatory enforcement actions, such as repetitive audits or investigations, unfair fines, penalties, threats, or retaliation.

Sorum served as staff assistant to President Gerald Ford and White House adviser under Presidents Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. Beginning in 1977, he managed a fundraising company with clients that included Senators Howard Baker, John Tower, John Warner, Larry Pressler, Edward Brooke, Dan Quayle, Arlen Specter and Congressmen Jack Kemp and Bud Shuster. He also represented the United States Industrial Council in Washington.

Sorum was a graduate of Michigan State University. He is survived by his wife, Mary Claire Hamlin of Alexandria, Va., and a daughter, Priscilla; his mother, Mary Sorum of Rochester, Minn.; a sister, Ellen Sorum of Minnetonka, Minn.; and two brothers, Gary Sorum of Minnetonka, Minn., and David Sorum of Minneapolis.

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